



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Over 50 countries go to the polls in 2024. The year will test even the most robust democracies

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — More than 50 countries that are home to half the planet's population are due to hold national elections in 2024, but the number of citizens exercising the right to vote is not unalloyed good news. The year looks set to test even the most robust democracies and to strengthen the hands of leaders with authoritarian leanings.

From Russia, Taiwan and the United Kingdom to India, El Salvador and South Africa, the presidential and legislative contests have huge implications for human rights, economies, international relations and prospects for peace in a volatile world. In some countries, the balloting will be neither free nor fair. And in many, curbs on opposition candidates, weary electorates and the potential for manipulation and disinformation have made the fate of democracy a front-and-center campaign issue.



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with members of United Russia party in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021. Associated Press Page 2

Continued on Page 2

Free Sangria
WITH THIS COUPON

ACROBATIC LIVE SHOW
Wed & Fri - 7pm-9pm

SHOW TICKETS \$35 p/p
www.rccaua.com

Reservations: +297 744 4059

"BEST RESTAURANT IN PALM BEACH"

FRENCH - CARIBBEAN

-DAILY CHANGING SPECIALS-
-LIVE MUSIC-
-EARLY BIRD-

Papillon RESTAURANT

FRENCH-CARIBBEAN

Over 50 countries go to the polls in 2024. The year will test even the most robust democracies

Continued from Front

A possible rematch between President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump looms large in the election calendar; a Trump victory in November is perhaps the greatest global wildcard. Yet high-stakes votes before then also will gauge the "mood of dissatisfaction, impatience, uneasiness" among far-flung electorates, said Bronwen Maddox, director of the London-based think-tank Chatham House.

VOTES WITH GLOBAL IMPACT

Taiwan's elections for president and the 113-member legislature take place Saturday under intense pressure from China, which makes the outcome important to much of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to the U.S.

Beijing has renewed its threat to use military force to annex the self-governing island it regards as its own territory, and described the elections as a choice between war and peace. None of the three leading presidential candidates has indicated a desire to try China's resolve by declaring Taiwan's independence.

That said, front-runner William Lai, who is currently Taiwan's vice president, has promised to strengthen the island's defense, and a victory by him could heighten cross-strait tensions. The opposition Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, is more amenable to Beijing than Lai's Democratic People's Party.

Taiwan's 23 million people overwhelmingly favor maintaining the island's de facto independence through self-rule. Domestic issues such as housing and health care therefore are likely to play a deciding role in the presidential race.

LEADERS LOOK TO TIGHTEN THEIR GRIPS

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the world's longest-serving female leader, won a fourth successive term Monday in an election that opposition parties boycotted and preceded by violence. Hasina's Awami League party was reelected on a low turnout of 40%, and the stifling of



In this combination of photos, President Joe Biden speaks on Aug. 10, 2023, in Salt Lake City, left, and former President Donald Trump speaks on July 8, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

dissent risks triggering political turmoil.

India, the world's most populous country, is due to hold a general election by mid-2024 that is likely to bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party a third consecutive term.

To his supporters, Modi is a political outsider who has cleaned up after decades of corruption and made India an emerging global power. Critics say assaults on the press and free speech, as well as attacks on religious minorities by Hindu nationalists, have grown brazen on his watch. Another leader seeking to retain power is El Salvador President Nayib Bukele, who has won widespread support since using emergency powers for an aggressive crackdown on ultra-violent street gangs.

A Supreme Court filled by his party's appointees cleared Bukele to run on Feb. 4 despite a constitutional ban on presidents serving two consecutive terms. While foreign governments have criticized the suspension of some civil rights, Bukele is not expected to face serious competition.

MILESTONES — AND MORE OF THE SAME

Mexico is poised to elect its first female president on June 2 — either former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, a protégé of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, or a former opposition senator, Xóchitl Gálvez. The winner will govern a country with daunting drug-related

violence and an increasingly influential military.

Voters in Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest democracy, are choosing a successor to President Joko Widodo on Feb. 14. Opinion polls indicate a close race between Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, a right-wing nationalist, and former Central Java Gov. Ganjar Pranowo, the governing party's candidate.

Subianto's running mate is outgoing leader Widodo's son, prompting speculation of a dynasty in the making. Either winner, though, would mark a continuation of the corruption-tainted politics that have dominated Indonesia since the end of the Suharto dictatorship in 1998. Pakistan's Feb. 8 parliamentary election also is being contested by well-established politicians, under the eye of the country's powerful military. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, a popular opposition figure, is imprisoned, and election officials blocked him from running.

His rival, three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, was allowed on the ballot after his corruption convictions were overturned. Also running is the Pakistan Peoples Party led by former Foreign Minister Bulawal Bhutto Zardari.

Analysts say the election is likely to produce a shaky government. The vote may be postponed amid plummeting relations with Taliban-controlled neighbor Afghanistan and deadly attacks on Pakistani

security forces.

HAS POPULISM PEAKED?

Populism gained ground in Europe as the continent experienced economic instability and mass migration from elsewhere. June elections for the parliament of the 27-nation European Union will be a sign of whether traditional parties can see off populist rivals, many of which are skeptical of military support for Ukraine.

Last year's national elections produced mixed signals: Slovakia elected pro-Russia populist Prime Minister Robert Fico, but voters in Poland replaced a conservative government with a coalition led by centrist Donald Tusk.

Mujtaba Rahman of political consultancy Eurasia Group predicted that the upcoming European Parliament races won't produce a populist majority but "the center will lose ground compared to the last vote" in 2019.

In former EU member Britain, populism found expression in the 2016 Brexit referendum and the turbulent term of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson. A U.K. general election this year will pit the governing Conservatives against the center-left Labour Party, which is firmly ahead in opinion polls as it seeks to regain power after 14 years.

DEMOCRACY'S CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

Climate change, disrupted grain supplies from the Ukraine war, and increasing attention from China and Russia are among the forces reshaping Africa, the world's fastest-growing continent.

Senegal is regarded as a bastion of stability in the region. Now that President Macky Sall is stepping down, his country's Feb. 25 election is seen as an indicator of the country's political resilience.

Supporters of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko accuse the government of trying to stop him running with a series of legal cases that have sparked deadly protests. The presidential election could "mark a return to the norms of previous years or signal a lasting shift towards more volatile politics," said Eurasia group analyst Tochi Eni-Kalu.

In South Africa, a legislative election due between May and August has a struggling economy, crippling power blackouts and an unemployment rate of nearly 32% as the political backdrop. Overcoming voter disillusionment will be a challenge for the long-dominant African National Congress.

The ANC has held the presidency and a majority in parliament since the end of the country's racist apartheid system in 1994, but the previously revered organization won less than half the vote in 2021 local elections.

If its support drops below 50%, the party will need to form a coalition to ensure that lawmakers reelect President Cyril Ramaphosa.

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, plans to hold its long-delayed first elections in December. The balloting would represent a key milestone but could be rife with danger and vulnerable to failure under current conditions.

Nicholas Haysom, who heads the U.N. mission in the country, told the Security Council last month that voter registration details, a security plan and a way to resolve disputes are among the missing elements needed to ensure free elections that are "deemed credible and acceptable to South Sudanese citizens."

RUBBER-STAMP EXERCISES

There's little doubt about who will win Russia's presidential election in March. President Vladimir Putin faces only token opposition in his bid for a fifth term. His main rivals are in prison, in exile or dead, and a politician calling for peace in Ukraine was disqualified. It's a similar story in Belarus, led by President Alexander Lukashenko. On Feb. 25, the country is expected to hold its first parliamentary election since Lukashenko's government crushed protests against the Putin ally's disputed 2020 reelection. Thousands of opponents are in prison or have fled the country.

Still, for all its problems, the democratic ideal retains widespread appeal, even for authoritarian leaders, Maddox said. □

USDA estimates 21 million kids will get summer food benefits through new program in 2024

By KENYA HUNTER
AP Health Writer

Nearly 21 million children in the U.S. and its territories are expected to receive food benefits this summer through a newly permanent federal program, the United States Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday.

Thirty-five states, all five U.S. territories and four tribes opted into the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program, or Summer EBT, which the government says is meant to supplement existing programs during the summer that have had a more limited reach.

"No child in this country should go hungry," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an interview with The Associated Press. "They certainly shouldn't go hungry because they lose access to nutritious school meals during the summer months."

In December 2022, Congress made Summer EBT permanent starting in 2024 after the USDA had tested it for several years. The states that chose not to opt in for this summer will have a chance to join for summer



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack holds up a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefits Transfer (SNAP EBT) card during a news conference at the White House, Wednesday, May 5, 2021, in Washington.

2025, the USDA said.

Who is eligible for Summer EBT?

Families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (that is, families who are at or under 185% of the federal poverty line) will be eligible for Summer EBT, which will cover about 70% of the eligible population in its first

year. In an October report, the USDA said an estimated 17 million households in the U.S. reported problems finding enough food in 2022. That was up from 13.5 million in 2021, when there was more pandemic-era federal food aid.

How much do families get? Eligible families will receive \$40 per month per child

during the summer a total of \$120 per child. The money will be loaded on an EBT card, which can be used at stores that also take Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The USDA estimates it will provide a total of \$2.5 billion in grocery benefits in 2024 through the Summer EBT program.

Associated Press

Who opted in?

The Cherokee Nation is one of the four tribes that'll be a part of the inaugural summer. Cherokee National Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said it was an easy decision.

"I think we're seeing a lot of pressures on households in terms of rent or other housing costs, all of that hitting very finite household budgets," he said, adding, "... This puts a dent in that overall problem by empowering parents to just simply be able to go out and purchase more food and some healthy options that are available."

The Cherokee Nation has its headquarters in Tahlequah, Oklahoma a state that opted out of Summer EBT. Hoskin said he expects more applications from non-tribal citizens who live on the reservation.

Which states will not participate, and why?

Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont and Wyoming chose not to participate this summer. □

Police investigation finds Colorado U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert didn't punch ex-husband as he claimed

By COLLEEN SLEVIN

DENVER (AP) — U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert has been cleared of domestic violence allegations made by her ex-husband during an altercation at a Colorado restaurant, police said Wednesday.

Jayson Boebert had accused the congresswoman of punching him in the face but he later recanted, Silt police said in a statement. The restaurant did not have any surveillance video recording at the time and no witnesses came forward to provide a statement about what happened, police said. "Due to a lack of any evidence, the allegations of domestic violence

against Rep. Lauren Boebert are unfounded and the investigation into Rep. Lauren Boebert is closed," police said. Jayson Boebert was arrested Tuesday for third-degree criminal trespass, obstruction and disorderly conduct in connection with the restaurant incident, Kite said, along with other charges pursued by county authorities. He was released the same day, according to jail records. Jayson Boebert did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It's unclear what happened at the Miner's Claim restaurant but Boebert's campaign released a statement Sunday in which

she said she "didn't punch Jayson in the face and no one was arrested. I will be consulting with my lawyer about the false claims he made against me and evaluate all of my legal options."

Jayson Boebert did not respond to earlier requests for comment from The Associated Press but previously told The Denver Post that he called police on Sunday morning to say he didn't want to press charges.

"I don't want nothing to happen," Jayson Boebert said. "Her and I were working through a difficult conversation."

Boebert, a Republican who has served two terms in the

U.S. House representing the western side of Colorado, announced on Dec. 27 that she was switching con-

gressional districts this year to run for a seat representing the eastern side of the state. □



Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., arrives at the Capitol in Washington, Nov. 29, 2023.

Associated Press

More adults sought help for ADHD during pandemic, contributing to drug shortages

By **TOM MURPHY** and **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH**
Associated Press

Prescriptions for ADHD treatments surged among adults during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to fuel lingering shortages that frustrate parents and doctors.

New prescriptions for stimulants used to treat the condition jumped for young adults and women during a two-year window after the pandemic hit in March 2020, according to a study published Wednesday in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Prescriptions also soared for nonstimulant treatments for adults of all ages, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration researchers found.

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is one of the most common developmental disorders in children, particularly boys. The use of drugs like Adderall to treat it climbed in general during the pandemic.

Telemedicine made it easier to get help, and regulators started allowing doctors to prescribe the drug



Adderall XR capsules are displayed on Feb. 24, 2023.

without first seeing a patient in person.

But Dr. Ann Childress says more adults also started coming to her for help after COVID-19 hit. The Las Vegas psychiatrist sees several reasons behind the shift. Working from home made some people realize how easily they get distracted.

Childress says she diagnosed a lot of parents, especially moms, who saw it in their children and realized they may have it as well.

Plus, social media made people more aware of adult ADHD.

"People are more open to talking about mental

health issues now," said Childress, who was not involved in the study.

Rising use of ADHD treatments compounded with manufacturing problems triggered an Adderall shortage that started more than a year ago. Doctors and patients say supply problems for several treatments

haven't let up.

"Each week there about 10 things that are in shortage," Childress said.

Wendy Terry called nearly 20 pharmacies last month looking for the drug Focalin for her third-grade son, who has ADHD. Some were a 45-minute drive from her home in Diboll, Texas, a town about 100 miles north-east of Houston.

"They all told me the same thing: We can't get it from the manufacturer. We don't know when we're going to get it or if we're going to get it," said the 42-year-old insurance agent.

Desperate, she briefly switched her son to another ADHD medication. But that went so badly that he had to miss school.

Terry eventually found a drugstore, thanks to a tip from a friend who works at another pharmacy. She says she dreads going through the ordeal again for a refill, but her son needs the help. "When he's not medicated, he literally can't sit down at school," Terry said. □

Associated Press

'Obamacare' sign-ups surge to 20 million, days before open enrollment closes

By **AMANDA SEITZ**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 20 million people have signed up for health insurance this year through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces, a record-breaking figure.

President Joe Biden will likely proclaim those results regularly on the campaign trail for months to come as former President Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner, vows to dismantle the Obama-era program.

The Biden administration announced Wednesday morning that 20 million have enrolled for coverage on the marketplace, days before the open enrollment period is set to close

on Jan. 16. The latest enrollment projections mean a quarter more Americans have signed up for coverage this year compared to

last another record-breaking year when 16.3 million enrolled in the program. Signs-ups spiked after Biden took office, with Democrats

rolling out a series of tax breaks that give millions of Americans access to low cost plans, some with zero-dollar premiums.

"We must build upon this progress and make these lower health care premiums permanent," Biden said in a statement. "But extreme Republicans have blocked these efforts at every turn." The nation's top health official on Wednesday credited piqued interest in the coverage with an aggressive campaign to get people enrolled. The administration has worked with nonprofits across the country, including in predominately Black and Latino communities, like South Florida, to get new people into coverage. The

administration has also invested millions more dollars into hiring navigators who help people enroll, a program that was decimated while President Donald Trump, a longtime critic of so-called "Obamacare," was in office.

"The previous administration made no effort to let people know what they could get," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said during an interview with MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "We're out there, we're not waiting for them to come to us. We're going to them."

But the increased enrollment news that the Biden administration celebrated on Wednesday has not come without cost. □



An insurance agent talks with clients inside the main location of Las Madrinas de los Seguros, Spanish for "The Godmothers of Insurance," at a shopping center in Miami, on Dec. 5, 2023.

Associated Press

U.N. Security Council to vote on a resolution demanding Houthi rebels stop attacks on Red Sea shipping

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. Security Council scheduled a vote Wednesday on a resolution that would condemn and demand an immediate halt to attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on merchant and commercial vessels in the Red Sea area.

The U.S. draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, says at least two dozen Houthi attacks are impeding global commerce "and undermine navigational rights and freedoms as well as regional peace and security."

U.S. Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood told reporters Wednesday ahead of the vote that the purpose of the resolution is to send a message that attacking commercial shipping is unacceptable and must stop. "Freedom of navigation, freedom of commercial activity on the seas is critically important to commerce and to national security of a number of states," he said.

"We're hoping that it will pass," he said, "I don't



In this image provided by the U.S. Navy, the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall and amphibious assault ship USS Bataan transit the Bab al-Mandeb strait on Aug. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

know how one Security Council member is going to vote." Wood was referring to Russia, which raised questions last week about the impact of a resolution on peace efforts in Yemen and the spread of the Israel-Hamas war. It could abstain or veto the resolution. The Iranian-backed Houthis,

who have been engaged in a civil war with Yemen's internationally recognized government since 2014, have said they launched the attacks with the aim of ending Israel's devastating air-and-ground offensive in the Gaza Strip.

It was triggered by the Palestinian militant group

Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise attack in southern Israel which killed about 1,200 people and led to some 250 others being taken hostage. Israel's three-month assault in Gaza has killed more than 23,000 people, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Health

Ministry which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

The resolution would demand the immediate release of the first ship the Houthis attacked, the Galaxy Leader, a Japanese-operated cargo ship with links to an Israeli company that it seized on Nov. 19 along with its crew.

However, the links to the ships targeted in the rebel assaults have grown more tenuous as the attacks continue. In the latest incident, a barrage of drones and missiles fired by the Houthis late Tuesday targeted shipping in the Red Sea, though the U.S. said no damage was reported.

The Red Sea links the Middle East and Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal, and its narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Nearly 10% of all oil trade and an estimated \$1 trillion in goods pass through the strait annually. But the Houthi attacks have forced many shipping companies to bypass this route and use the much longer and more expensive route around the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. □

Holiday gatherings and a new variant have driven up COVID cases globally, the UN health agency says

GENEVA (AP) — The head of the U.N. health agency said Wednesday holiday gatherings and the spread of the most prominent variant globally led to increased transmission of COVID-19 last month.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said nearly 10,000 deaths were reported in December, while hospital admissions during the month jumped 42% in nearly 50 countries mostly in Europe and the Americas that shared such trend information.

"Although 10,000 deaths a month is far less than the peak of the pandemic, this level of preventable deaths is not acceptable," the World Health Organiza-

tion director-general told reporters from its headquarters in Geneva.

He said it was "certain" that cases were on the rise in other places that haven't

been reporting, calling on governments to keep up surveillance and provide continued access to treatments and vaccines.

Tedros said the JN.1 variant was now the most prominent in the world. It is an omicron variant, so current vaccines should still provide some protection.

Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead at WHO for COVID-19, cited an increase in respiratory diseases across the globe due to the coronavirus but also flu, rhinovirus and pneumonia.

"We expect those trends to continue into January through the winter months in the northern hemisphere," she said, while noting increases in COVID-19

in the southern hemisphere where it's now summer.

While bouts of coughs, sniffing, fever and fatigue in the winter are nothing new, Van Kerkhove said this year in particular, "we are seeing co-circulation of many different types of pathogens."

WHO officials recommend that people get vaccinated when possible, wear masks, and make sure indoor areas are well ventilated.

"The vaccines may not stop you being infected, but the vaccines are certainly reducing significantly your chance of being hospitalized or dying," said Dr. Michael Ryan, head of emergencies at WHO. □



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaks to journalists during a press conference at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday April 6, 2023.

Associated Press

Guyana turns to U.S. to help boost its military as territorial dispute with Venezuela deepens

By **BERT WILKINSON**
Associated Press
GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Guyana's government said it is seeking help from the U.S. to improve its defense capabilities amid fears that neighboring Venezuela might one day seize a disputed region in western Guyana that is rich in minerals and oil.

The announcement follows two days of talks among top Guyanese officials and Daniel P. Erikson, deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere who traveled to the South American country to discuss defense and security partnerships.

The talks ended late Tuesday with Erikson saying the U.S. would help Guyana create a more organized and better equipped military in coming months. He did not provide further details. Erikson also said that security forces and specialized training teams that have visited Guyana in the past year will continue to do so in 2024.

Erikson told reporters that



Chairman of the Special Commission for the Defense of Guyana Essequibo Hermann Escarra, stands next to Venezuela's new map that includes the Essequibo territory, a swath of land that is administered and controlled by Guyana but claimed by Venezuela, during an unveiling ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 8, 2023.

Guyana is seeking to modernize its defense capabilities, and that part of the talks focused on scope and capability, as well as cybersecurity.

"One thing of great interest to us is ensuring that as

Guyana looks to increase its defense capacities, it does so through a plan that is strategic, nested in its overall defense institutions, and sustainable over time," Erikson said. He described the talks with Guya-

nese officials as productive and said the U.S. is aware of what steps are needed to improve defense capabilities. "We are looking forward to working with them, especially deepening information sharing," he said.

Associated Press

"We do recognize that Guyana's at a turning point in terms of its own economic development, in terms of the regional role that it is capable of playing, and so we want to make sure that our defense relationship with Guyana continues to meet the times as the situation in Guyana continues to evolve."

Erikson's trip comes just weeks after a century-old dispute over Guyana's Essequibo region deepened, with Venezuela holding a referendum in December to claim sovereignty over an area that represents two-thirds of Guyana.

Tensions continued to worsen late last year until Guyana President Irfaan Ali and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro met in the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent as part of an emergency mediation meeting organized by regional leaders to prevent further escalation. After the meeting, both sides agreed to refrain from using force, but the territorial dispute continues. □

AI-powered misinformation is the world's biggest short-term threat, Davos report says

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — False and misleading information supercharged with cutting-edge artificial intelligence that threatens to erode democracy and polarize society is the top immediate risk to the global economy, the World Economic Forum said in a report Wednesday.

In its latest Global Risks Report, the organization also said an array of environmental risks pose the biggest threats in the longer term. The report was released ahead of the annual elite gathering of CEOs and world leaders in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos and is based on a survey of nearly 1,500 experts,

industry leaders and policymakers.

The report listed misinformation and disinformation as the most severe risk over the next two years, highlighting how rapid advances in technology also are creating new problems or making existing ones worse. The authors worry that the boom in generative AI chatbots like ChatGPT means that creating sophisticated synthetic content that can be used to manipulate groups of people won't be limited any longer to those with specialized skills.

AI is set to be a hot topic next week at the Davos meetings, which are expected to be attended by tech company bosses in-

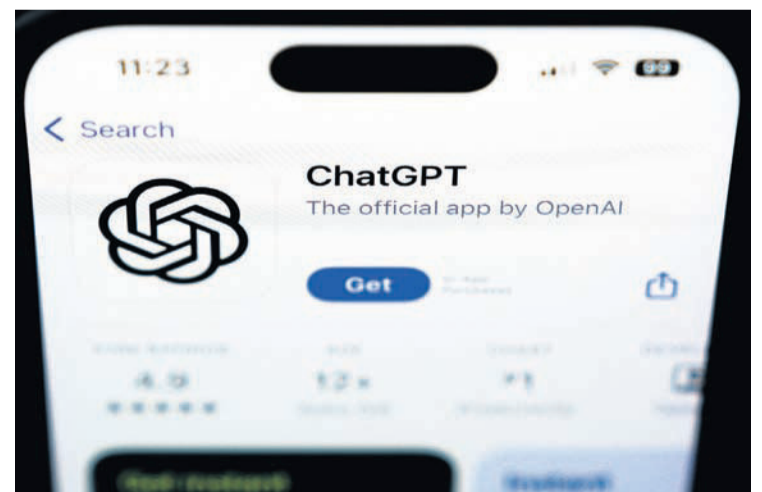
cluding OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and AI industry players like Meta's chief AI scientist, Yann LeCun.

AI-powered misinformation and disinformation is emerging as a risk just as a billions of people in a slew of countries, including large economies like the United States, Britain, Indonesia, India, Mexico, and Pakistan, are set to head to the polls this year and next, the report said.

"You can leverage AI to do deepfakes and to really impact large groups, which really drives misinformation," said Carolina Klint, a risk management leader at Marsh, whose parent company Marsh McLennan co-authored the report with

Zurich Insurance Group. "Societies could become further polarized" as people find it harder to verify facts, she said. Fake information also could be used to fuel questions about the

legitimacy of elected governments, "which means that democratic processes could be eroded, and it would also drive societal polarization even further," Klint said. □



A ChatGPT logo is seen on a smartphone in West Chester, Pa., Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual

ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐

Note to visitors:

Due to heavy rainfall in the past few days, Arikok National Park has informed that they have closed the Quadirikiri Cave until further notice for the safety of visitors.

Fontein remains open from 9am to 4pm.





Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it

has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! ☐

ATA honors Mitchell Kaufman for his 60 years of love and loyalty to Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority showed gratitude by honoring Mr. Mitchell Kaufman, who has been faithfully visiting our island for six weeks every year spanning six decades.

Reminiscing how it all came to be, Mr. Kaufman said: "I read an article in the New York Times talking about Aruba, what an unusual and nice place that it was. So I said to my wife, we might as well try it."

Back then, things were a little different than they are now. "When you got out of the airplane then, they took your luggage and they moved it to the front of the airport. And then there was a bus, and the bus went to the hotel. There was only one hotel there," Mr. Kaufman says. "Then you saw that it really looked like an island, like a

tropical island."

"The hotel was tremendous, and the front of the hotel they had the bars so that the goats wouldn't come," he added. "And in order to eat over at the casino, you needed a jacket and a tie."

As for whether it made a good impression, Mr. Kaufman said: "Yes, we decided that we liked it so we booked it to come back Christmas time." And the rest is history!

But looking back on 60 years of joy at Playa Linda resort, one has to wonder, what's the secret to his six-decade bond with Aruba? "The weather, the people, the friendliness and the safeness of it."

ATA presented Mr. Kaufman with a beautiful picture to take home as a show of gratitude for his loyalty and love for our island, including a beautiful message: "The Aruba Tourism Authority acknowledges your loyalty, and we appreciate the trust you bestow upon Aruba's warm hospitality. Your enduring relationship with our One Happy Island remains unwavering. Thank you very much!"

Mr. Kaufman finished by stating simply: "I love Aruba."



ARUBA CLEAN

IS MORE DUSHI

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!
 \$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
 Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
 Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab

Alhambra
 CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



The Ostrich Farm



Matividiri – One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran

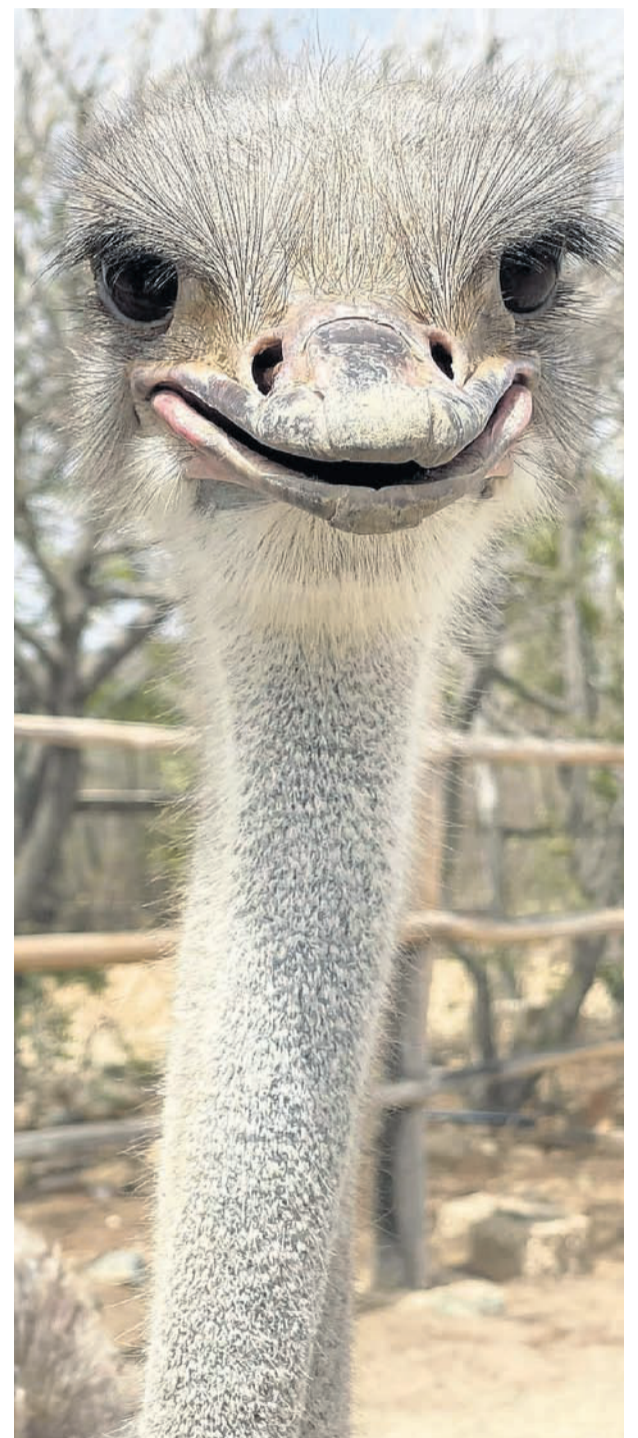


around in circles, flapped her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!
 Tours are available daily every half hour from 10– 3pm. No reservations needed for small groups.

Matividiri 57, Open daily from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM
 Telephone: 5859630
 For more information go to the website: www.arubaostrichfarm.com



MUST VISIT!

- Fun Tour
- The best Shaved ice
- Delicious lunch
- Fresh Fruits Smoothies
- Ice cold beer
- Unique local art Shop
- #1 Farmers Market (Every 1st Sunday of the month)



TOURS RUN EVERY HOUR FROM 10:00 TILL 3:00 PM



RESTAURANT

RESERVATION FOR OSTRICH/EMU EGG PLATTER REQUIRED due to limited availability

Info@arubaostrichfarm.com or Tel: 585-9630

OPEN DAILY:
 10:00 - 4:00 pm



Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a potting melt of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamentu means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.



Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamentu. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamentu means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in

the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing. When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases

may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in

length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors

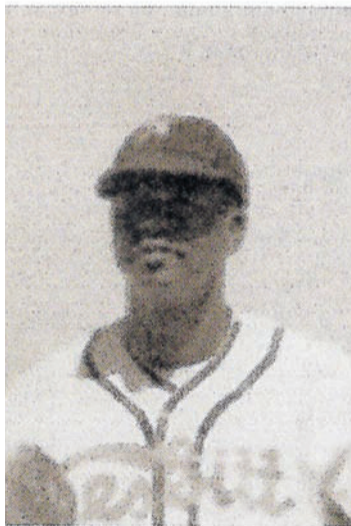
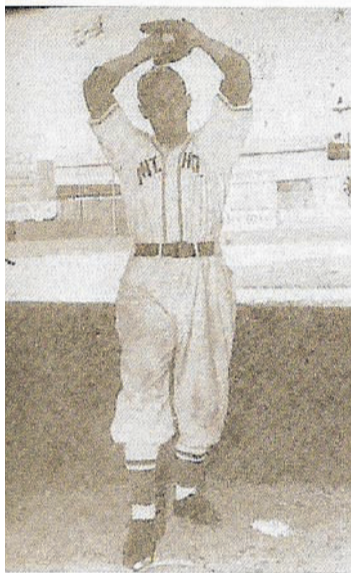
can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".



Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was

the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team



sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Se-

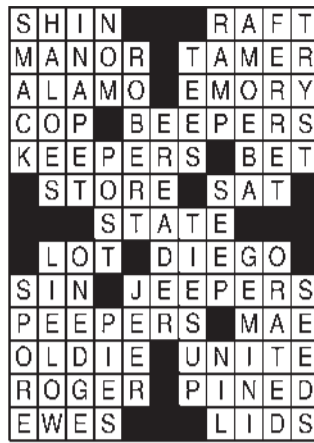
ries that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

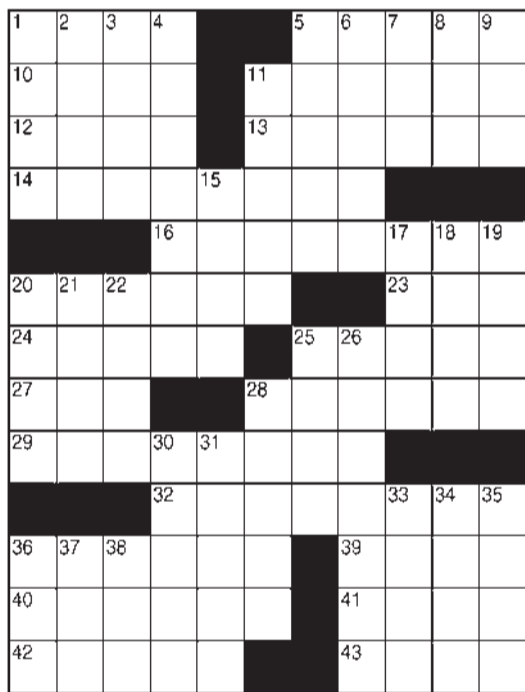


- ACROSS**
- 3 Visitor to Oz
 - 4 Grove yield
 - 5 Slump
 - 6 John who married Pocahontas
 - 7 Athena's symbol
 - 8 Neckline shape
 - 9 Go wrong
 - 11 Disgusting
 - 15 Crazy talk
 - 17 Downfall
 - 18 "The King and I" role
 - 19 Sediment
 - 20 Zesty flavor
 - 21 Track shape
 - 22 Green Hornet's valet
 - 25 School event
 - 26 "Listen to Your Heart" duo
 - 28 Dwelling
 - 30 Uttered
 - 31 Works copy
 - 33 Waiter's aid
 - 34 The Emerald Isle
 - 35 Goes bad
 - 36 Letter before omega
 - 37 Conducted
 - 38 Commotion

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Track shape
- 22 Green Hornet's valet
- 25 School event
- 26 "Listen to Your Heart" duo
- 28 Dwelling
- 30 Uttered
- 31 Works copy
- 33 Waiter's aid
- 34 The Emerald Isle
- 35 Goes bad
- 36 Letter before omega
- 37 Conducted
- 38 Commotion

- 10 Nick and Nora's dog
- 13 Big wave
- 14 Car part
- 16 Car part
- 20 Game pieces
- 23 Early hour
- 24 Sailor's cry
- 25 Likely
- 27 D.C. baseballer
- 28 Kitchen come-ons
- 29 Car part
- 32 Car part
- 36 Calm
- 39 Half of a sextet
- 40 Calm
- 41 Pucker-inducing
- 42 They're adored
- 43 Peepers



- DOWN**
- 1 Seth's father
 - 2 Fair

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-11 CRYPTOQUOTE
EZGXTJGA JC Z CBTJBC VR

CQZGGBTBU JMMXCJVL C.

— MBWZT FXTGVL
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE PURPOSE OF PROPAGANDA IS TO MAKE ONE SET OF PEOPLE FORGET THAT OTHER SETS OF PEOPLE ARE HUMAN. — ALDOUS HUXLEY

Classifieds

Casa Del Mar 2BR/2B:

Week 2/Unit1113 (21k);
Week 5/Unit1315 (23k);
Week 8/Unit1113 (19k);
Week 8/Unit1409 (19k);
Week 10/Unit1207 (19k);
Week 13/Unit1509 (14k); and,
Week 14/Unit1308 (14k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

217264

Marriott destination points

Palm beach
At:\$6 a point
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA

Halley Time Travel Aruba
To all Time Share members
That are interested in sell your
Timeshare in Aruba
Contacts the expert
37 years of doing Honest business
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuero

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



Pharmaceuticals are seen in North Andover, Mass., on June 15, 2018

Associated Press

Do I really need supplemental insurance (Medigap) with Medicare?

By **ALEX ROSENBERG** of NerdWallet

About 41% of Original Medicare beneficiaries had Medicare Supplement Insurance, or Medigap, in 2021, according to a February 2023 report summarizing enrollment data from AHIP, a national health insurance trade association. For the other 59%, Medicare has some "gaps" that could be costly. "There are many gaps in Medicare that a beneficiary has to pay if they don't have a Medigap," Kelli Jo Greiner, Minnesota State Health Insurance Assistance Program director, said in an email. "This can add up to be thousands of dollars per year."

While it's not mandatory, you might want to purchase a Medigap policy to fill some of the gaps in Medicare Part A and/or Part B. (Medigap doesn't work with Medicare Advantage policies.)

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders **24/7**

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA**

How to reach us!

Downtown

Classifieds

House For sale

West punt Ruby
5 min drive to the ocean
3 BR 2bath with one apartment
With pool
Price:\$640K
Call:0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For sale

Noord
3 BR 2 bath
5 min drive to the beach
Price:\$350K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For sale

Fixer upper
Salin'a serka
3 BR 2 Bath with apartment
Price:\$325 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For sale

Fixer upper
Bubali near super food
5 min drive to eagle beach
2 bedroom 2 bath, 2 BR 1bath
3 Bedroom 1bath
Price :\$530K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Cumana near CMart
Central located
2 bedroom 2bath with apartment
With pool and 4 apartment
Price :\$630K
Call:0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For sale

Noord
Bar/Restaurants
Price:\$850K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
La Cabana beach resort and casino
Eagle Beach
Christmas week
One bedroom sleep 4
Week 51 room number 329 A
Price :\$7K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle Beach
Studio WK 1 room #8201
19 weeks remain
Price:\$8K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1BR WK# 50 room #2258
24 weeks remain \$8K
2 BR WK 51 room #2205/2206
23 weeks remain \$16K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK 52 room #4116
Ground floor 28 weeks remain
Price :10 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK 2 room # 4102
22 weeks remain \$9K
Studio WK 3 room #4205
22 weeks remain \$8K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK 51 and 52 room #2257
20 weeks remain
Price :\$10K each
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
2 BR WK #3 room# 2317/2318
26 weeks remain
Price :\$18K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
2 BR WK 9 room #2117/2118
22 weeks remain
Price :\$18K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
1BR 2 bath WK 11
Room #2215 birdie 3
22 weeks remain
Price :\$ 9K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK 1 room #8201
19 weeks remain
Price:\$8K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK 3 room #7306
18 weeks remain
Price :\$7K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK # 5 room # 8105
Building C with elevator
1 st floor 13 weeks remain
Price :\$7 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Dutch Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK #12 room #33
30 weeks remain
Price :\$9K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Dutch Village

Eagle Beach
Studio WK #15 room # 125
Overlooking pool
32 weeks remain
Price :\$9K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
1 BR WK # 52 room #953
1 BR WK # 01 room #654
Value 186,000 Points
Experation date 2058
Price :\$60K both weeks
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
Penthouse
2 BR WK 1 room #672
22 weeks remain
Price :\$35K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Beach Club

Eagle Beach
Christmas week
1BR Deluxe week 51
Room #206
Price :\$ 12 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Beach resort

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK 8 room #4561
4th floor pool view
Price :\$9K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quinta beach resorts

Eagle Beach
Town House
2 BR WK #9 room #212
Price :\$12K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle Beach
1 BR WK #12 room# 1328
2 BR WK #12 room # 1505
Price : 1BR \$7K 2BR \$18K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo resort

Palm Beach
All inclusive
1 BR deluxe WK 8 \$15K
3 BR WK 6/7
On the 9th floor \$80K both weeks
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Caribbean palm village

Deeded property
1 BR WK 3 and 4 room # B 104
Price :\$7 K each
2 BR WK # 6 room# B206
Price :\$10K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private Island
1BR WK #51 room # 2136
1 BR WK #51 room #2530
Price :\$10K each
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private Island
1 BR WK 51/52 Room #2314
Price :\$21K both weeks
1 BR WK #12 room #2521
Price :\$9K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
Marriott destination points
Palm beach
At:\$6 a point
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Halley Time Travel Aruba
To all Time Share members
That are interested in sell your



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Kibrahacha: Tel. 583 4908
San Lucas: Tel. 584 5119

Women in Difficulties

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Aaron Rodgers denies implying comic Jimmy Kimmel was tied to Epstein and condemns those who do

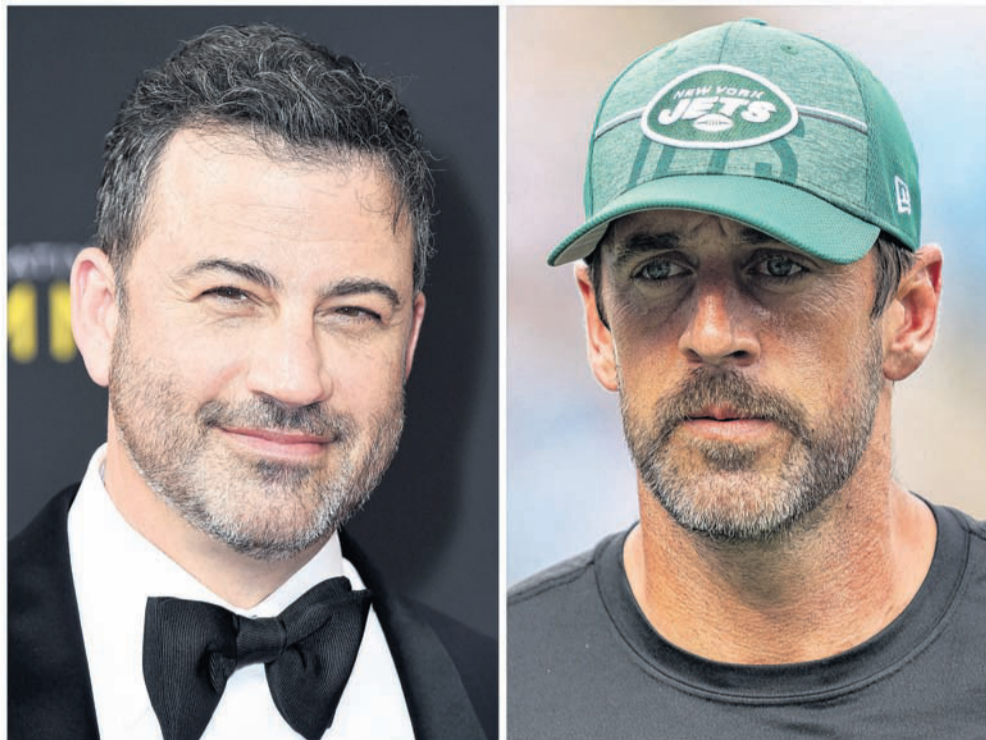
By **DAVID BAUDER** and **DENIS WASZAK Jr.**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers denied he implied comic Jimmy Kimmel was a pedophile and condemned those who do, but he stopped short of apologizing for his role in escalating their burgeoning feud. Rodgers returned to ESPN's "The Pat McAfee Show" on Tuesday for his weekly appearance and addressed comments he made the week before that appeared to suggest Kimmel's name might appear on a list of associates of Jeffrey Epstein, a millionaire accused of sex trafficking involving underage victims before he died by suicide.

"Any type of name calling is ridiculous and I'm not calling him (a pedophile), and neither should you," Rodgers said on the show Tuesday.

The feud between ABC's late-night star and Rodgers, who regularly appears



Jimmy Kimmel, left, is shown in a Sept. 14, 2019, file photo, in Los Angeles. New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, right, is shown in Aug. 12, 2023, file photo, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

on the daily ESPN show, has proven embarrassing for The Walt Disney Co., the parent company to both television networks.

Rodgers criticized Mike Foss, an ESPN executive who oversees McAfee's

show, for saying that Rodgers had made "a dumb and factually inaccurate joke" about Kimmel.

"Mike, you're not helping," Rodgers said.

"You're not helping because I just read earlier

exactly what I said. This is the game plan of the media and this is what they do: They try to cancel, you know, and it's not just me." Rodgers last week said a lot of people, "including Jimmy Kimmel," are really hop-

ing that a list of Epstein's associates doesn't come out publicly.

Kimmel, who has denied any association with Epstein, threatened Rodgers with a lawsuit for the comment and said the NFL star was putting his family in danger.

Rodgers suggested that people were reading too much into what he said, that he was not stupid enough to accuse Kimmel of being a pedophile.

Kimmel made the first appearance of the year Monday on his late-night show and laced into Rodgers. He said he would accept an apology from Rodgers but didn't expect one.

"A decent person would apologize," Kimmel said. "But he probably won't."

Kimmel called Rodgers "hamster-brained" and said that he got two A's on his report card "they're both in the name Aaron."

"It might be time to revisit that concussion profile, Aaron," Kimmel said. □

Music streams hit 4 trillion in 2023. Country and global acts and Taylor Swift fueled the growth

By **MARIA SHERMAN**

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Listened to more music last year? You're not alone.

The global music industry surpassed 4 trillion streams in 2023, a new single-year record, Luminate's 2023 Year-End Report found.

Global streams were also up 34% from last year, reflective of an increasingly international music marketplace.

Stateside, three genres saw the biggest growth in 2023: country (23.7%), Latin (which encompasses all Latin musical genres, up 24.1%) and world (a catch-all that includes J-pop, K-pop and Afrobeats, up 26.2%).

It seems that more Americans are listening to non-English music. By the end

of 2023, Luminate found that Spanish-language music's share of the top 10,000 songs streamed in the U.S. grew 3.8%, and English-language music's share

dropped 3.8%.

Under the Latin umbrella, regional Mexican music saw massive growth. The genre term which encompasses mariachi, banda,



Peso Pluma performs during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

corridos, norteño, sierrero and other styles grew 60% in U.S. on-demand audio streams, accounting for 21.9 billion. Four of the six Latin artists to break 1 billion audio streams in the U.S. were Mexican acts: Peso Pluma, Eslabon Armado, Junior H, and Fuerza Regida, who also placed in the top 125 artists streamed.

Armado and Peso Pluma's "Ella Baila Sola" surpassed a billion streams on Spotify in less than a year and became the first regional Mexican Top 10 hit on Billboard's all-genre Hot 100, peaking at No. 4 later, Bad Bunny's collaboration with Grupo Frontera, "Un x100to," hit No. 5.

As for the Taylor Swift of it all: Time's 2023 Person of the Year made up 1.79% of the U.S. market, Luminate

found, accounting for 1 in every 78 U.S. on-demand audio streams.

Her dominance is reflected in Luminate's 2023 top albums chart, where Swift accounts for five of the top 10 albums in the U.S.

However, when it comes to overall music consumption in the U.S. even with the success of Swift and the massive successes of country music and non-English language programming hip-hop continues to rule, accounting for 25.5% of all streams.

Maybe it had something to do with hip-hop celebrating its 50-year anniversary in 2023, because streams for current R&B and hip-hop acts dropped 7.1% from 2022, while catalog streams older material grew 11.3%. □

NHLPA unveils mental health initiative to help hockey players learn more, watch for warning signs

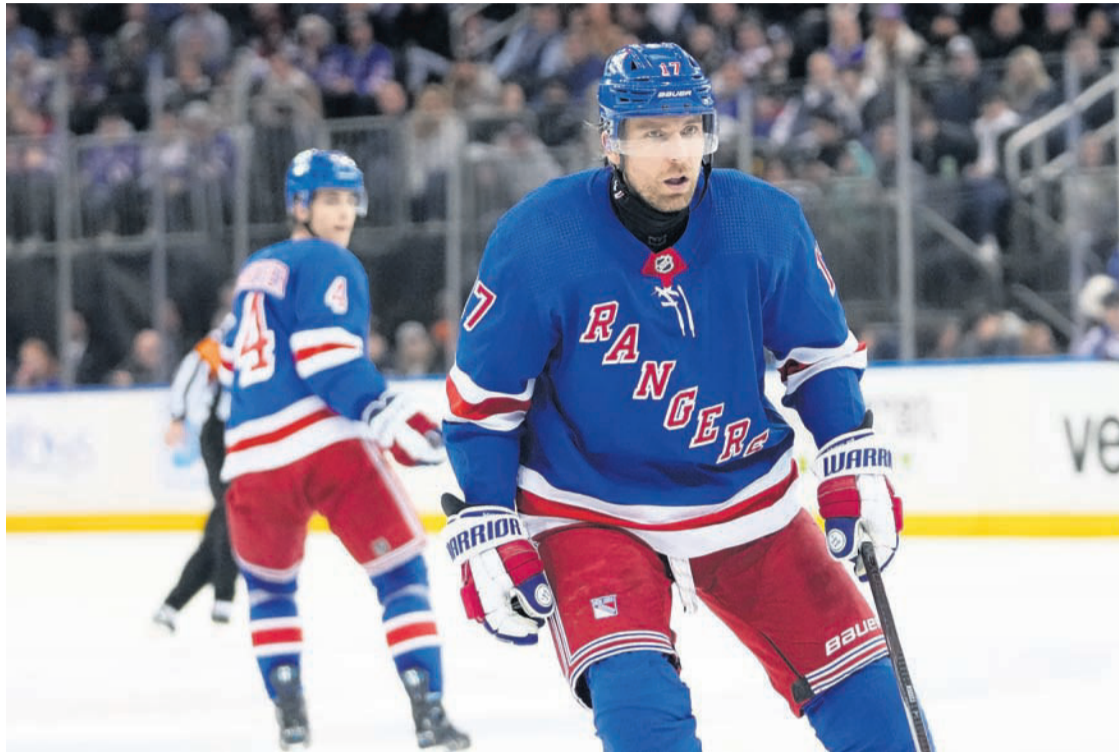
By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

Whenever Blake Wheeler endured mental health challenges in his hockey career, he felt better when he talked about them and sought help.

When the NHL Players' Association introduced a pilot program to teach the basics of mental health, Wheeler was on board to give it a try. On Wednesday the union unveiled its First Line program, an initiative with Mental Health Commission of Canada that is now available to players who want to learn more about the topic.

"We're opening a door that hasn't been opened before and giving guys just a little bit of a feel that, if something pops up in your life, if you need a little bit of support, you have a few guys who have been trained a little bit," said Wheeler, who is in his 16th season and first with the New York Rangers. "Hopefully in the future this is just commonplace in our league."

A handful of players in recent months have opened up about mental health struggles, including Arizona's Connor Ingram, Florida's Spencer Knight and Colorado's Samuel Girard. They received care from the NHL/NHLPA player assistance program, a joint venture of the league and union.



New York Rangers' Blake Wheeler (17) plays during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Vancouver Canucks Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, in New York.

First Line is separate from that and is designed to be a preventive measure, offering players the tools to understand mental health and recognize potential warning signs in themselves, teammates and family members.

"(It) is not therapy or counseling," NHLPA director of player health and safety Maria Dennis told The Associated Press. "It's a class. It's to educate players and arm them with the knowledge and skills so that they could take the first step."

Wheeler and Calgary captain Mikael Backlund were

among the roughly 20 players who took the pilot class with Jay Harrison, a retired defenseman who's now the PA's consulting psychologist. Harrison said the idea came from player feedback, especially from the pandemic when there was more focus put on mental health concerns.

Shane Silver, VP of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Opening Minds division that focuses on mental health education, said there has been sharp growth in interest from organizations since the pandemic. Director Mike Pietrus

said the programs can be adapted to specific needs in this case, that of NHL players, who play in a sport that prides itself on secrecy when it comes to injuries and other details.

"You're dealing with Type-A personalities who basically embody who they are and what they want to be and everything, their goal is set to becoming the best possible athlete," Pietrus said. "They become so obsessed with that that they forget about so many other things. And then later on in life when they, for example, get married and have kids,

their perspective changes quite a bit."

Backlund took the course after getting the "C" as Flames captain, seeing it as a way to help him become a better leader.

"There were some simple little things that can help us big time," Backlund said. "I want to keep working on this and improve my skills as a leader on the team as the captain and learn how I can be mentally stronger and healthier and also how I can see signs of maybe my teammates are struggling or not feeling as well and how I can help them."

Calgary teammate Oliver Kylington missed all last season to focus on his mental health, a now-familiar step after other examples around sports, like NBA star Kevin Love, gymnast Simone Biles and former swimmer Michael Phelps acknowledging their own struggles.

"Everybody who comes out, it adds to just knocking down that barrier and the stigma," Dennis said.

"The more athletes that come out and talk about their own experiences, the better it is."

Harrison, who played parts of nine NHL seasons from 2006-15, said he believes the culture is shifting in hockey, a sport where mental and physical toughness is stressed from a young age. □

Associated Press

Kentucky Derby purse raised to \$5 million for 150th race in May

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Derby purse has been raised to \$5 million for the 150th edition in May.

The increase of \$2 million was announced Wednesday by Churchill Downs. The 1 1/4-mile race will be May 4. This year's winner will receive \$3.1 million. The runner-up will earn \$1 million; third is worth \$500,000; fourth is \$250,000; and fifth is \$150,000.

Previously, the Derby purse had been \$3 million since 2019. It was \$2 million from

2005-18 and \$1 million from 1996-2004.

By comparison, the Breeders' Cup Classic purse is \$6 million, with \$3.12 million to the winner.

Also getting a boost is the Kentucky Oaks for 3-year-old fillies run on Derby eve. Its purse will be \$1.5 million, a \$250,000 increase.

Churchill's spring meet will feature 50 stakes races worth \$25.6 million, an increase of \$5.1 million or 25% from last year's \$20.5 million lineup.

"These record purse increases are a symbol of the health of horse racing in Kentucky," said Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Inc.

The hikes were made possible by Churchill's investment in historical horse racing, which boosts the funding for purse money. It is electronic gambling that allows players to bet on replays of horse races that have already been run using terminals that resemble slot machines. □



Mage (8), with Javier Castellano aboard, wins the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

Pete Carroll is out as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks after 14 seasons

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP)— Pete Carroll is out after 14 seasons as the head coach of the Seattle Seahawks, responsible for two NFC championships and the only Super Bowl title in franchise history during his long tenure.

The 72-year old coach is moving into an advisory role with the organization, according to a statement from owner Jody Allen on Wednesday.

Seattle closed the regular season with a 21-20 win at Arizona on Sunday. The Seahawks entered the final two weeks of the regular season with the chance at



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll argues a call with side judge Jim Quirk (5) in the first half of an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

reaching the playoffs for the 11th time with Carroll in charge, but a Week 17 loss to Pittsburgh left Seattle in need of help it didn't get to close out the season.

Carroll will step aside as the most successful coach in franchise history, but with an unsatisfactory conclusion after several seasons of middling results. He'll forever be lauded as the first coach to bring the Lombardi Trophy to Seattle with the Super Bowl 48 victory over Denver.

But Carroll never fully recovered from what happened in the Super Bowl a year later with Russell Wilson's goal line interception in the final seconds, and Seattle never experienced another title that could wash away the memories of what happened in Super Bowl 49.

Carroll stepped aside with a 137-69-1 record in his time with the Seahawks. He led Seattle to five NFC West titles and 10 playoff victories.

But the Seahawks plateaued toward the end of Carroll's time. Seattle finished with a losing record in 2021, made the playoffs at 9-8 in 2022 and was unable to make the leap that it was expected to being more of a contender in the NFC West this season.

Carroll himself sounded frustrated going into Week 18 about how this season had gone.

"We have a lot of work to do, but the outlook for the future is very positive, because of the makeup of the guys, the way they want to work, the way they go about it," Carroll said. "They just need to be trained and it needs to come back another year where you see all of those guys that make that jump from year one to year two and from year two to year three. There's going to be a real positive movement for our club."

That future for Seattle will be under the watch of a different coach, though. □



Palm Beach, Aruba

Come and join the FUN!

Everyday from 10am till 6pm

We have DOUBLE points

BINGO

Play Every Day

Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Operations Hours

Slots: 10am

Table: 4pm



Slot Play \$10

Match Play \$15



Sign up and become a VIP Member.

ID required upon redemption!



Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on